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REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.*

MAY 25, 1886.

During the last year the Academy has lost by death ten members;—viz. eight Resident Fellows: W. S. Clark, Charles E. Hamlin, Henry P. Kidder, Robert Treat Paine, H. H. Richardson, C. U. Shepard, John L. Sibley, and Edward Tuckerman; and two Foreign Honorary Members, Henri Milne Edwards and Leopold von Ranke.

RESIDENT FELLOWS.

SAMUEL CABOT, M.D.

DR. CABOT was born in Boston on the 20th of September, 1815, and always resided in Boston or the neighboring town of Brookline. He was the second son of Mr. Samuel and Mrs. Eliza (Perkins) Cabot.

On his father's side, he belonged to a family distinguished in political and social life. His mother was a daughter of one of those noble merchants who have made a generous use of their great wealth, and are remembered in the gifts due to their generosity. The "Perkins Institute and Massachusetts School for the Blind," which owes its existence to the liberality of Thomas Handasyd Perkins, is the enduring monument of the maternal grandfather of Dr. Cabot.

The subject of this notice was fitted for college at the Boston Latin School, entered Harvard University at the age of seventeen, and was graduated in 1836. He was not distinguished as a scholar during his

* The decease of Richardson and Von Ranke has been too recent to admit of notices in this volume; but notices of Cabot, Dixwell, Hooper, and Von Siebold, omitted for the same reason last year, are now given.

college course. He was far from idle, but he chose his own kind of industry. Students were not allowed to keep fire-arms, but young Cabot would often visit Fresh Pond early in the morning and bring back a duck or two, showing that he knew how to use a gun effectively. His father called at Cambridge one day, and was told by his son's friend, Amos Lawrence, that such was his habit, and that if he called in the evening, when he would be welcome, he would probably find a duck roasting at the end of a string which he might notice hanging in front of the fireplace. His father then spoke of Sam's facility in stuffing birds, and as he went away he said, "Perhaps he will make a naturalist, or at least an ornithologist."

In 1839 he took his medical degree at Harvard, after which he went to Paris, where he remained two years, continuing his medical studies. The fondness for ornithology which he had shown in his college days lasted through all his subsequent life. In 1842 and 1843 he accompanied Mr. John Lloyd Stephens in his explorations in Yucatan, and worked up the ornithology of the expedition for Mr. Stephens's "Incidents of Travel" in that country.

Dr. Cabot settled in Boston as a practitioner in surgery and medicine, and took a high place in the profession. In the mean time he never forgot his favorite branch of science. He was appointed Cabinet-keeper of the Boston Natural History Society in 1839, and had especial charge of the collection of birds belonging to the Society from 1844 to 1854.

In 1853 he was appointed a surgeon of the Massachusetts General Hospital, in the place of the late Dr. John Collins Warren. "How faithfully he served," says Mr. Lawrence, "all who were associated with him, and all who came under his care, knew well. His kind heart sometimes made his duties arduous"; and Mr. Lawrence relates an instance in which his humanity and self-reliance were put to the severest test, and proved equal to it.

As a surgeon Dr. Cabot was highly esteemed for his skill and conscientious attention to his patients. He was one of the first, if not the very first, in this country to perform the subcutaneous operation for strabismus. Impulsive, excitable, self-reliant, full of generous impulses, not always remembering the *suaviter in modo* as well as the *fortiter in re*, he was one of those men whom every friend—and every enemy, if he had any—would always know where to find. Everywhere a sturdy champion of the right as he conceived it, his sympathies with the weak, the oppressed, the sick, the suffering, could always be counted upon; and his fiery indignation against the oppressor, against

all who were false to the claims of humanity, was always ready to declare itself with unmistakable energy. All these personal qualities showed themselves in his relations with his patients and his brother practitioners, and leave the impression of his virile and full-blooded nature deeply stamped upon their memory.

A practitioner at once skilful, humane, and widely known and trusted, is all his life long doing charitable work for his fellow-creatures. It is pre-eminently true of the benevolent surgeon, that his left hand never knows half that his right hand doeth. But private acts of mercy and kindness were not enough for the warmly benevolent nature of Dr. Cabot. As President of the Infant Asylum, and as physician to the Home for Destitute Children, which latter office he held for thirty years, he consecrated his professional skill to public uses. He took an active part, as a member of the Emigrant Aid Society, in the settlement of Kansas. This is not the place to tell the story of that eventful period; but if it were told, the energy and the sacrifices of Dr. Cabot would form a notable part of the record. Mr. Lawrence, who was his early friend and his collaborator in this as in other good works, says of him: "Dr. Cabot was a philanthropist in the best sense. He never wearied until the good object was accomplished, and he never sought to exalt himself at the expense of his associates. His humility was as conspicuous to his friends as his merit was to them and to all who acted with him."

With the exception of two visits made to the army during the war of the Rebellion, Dr. Cabot continued to practice medicine in Boston until the period of the illness which ended in his death on the 15th of April, 1885.

Dr. Cabot was elected a member of this Academy in Class II., Section 3, in the year 1844; he was also a member of the Massachusetts Medical Society. During his long connection with the Boston Society of Natural History, from the year 1830 to the year of his death, Dr. Cabot made many communications to the Society, the most important of which are enumerated in the following list.

Proceedings.

Vol. I. On *Meleagris ocellata*. On *Phasianus motmot*. On the Wild Turkey. On *Ortyx nigrogularis*. New Birds of Yucatan. On Palmated Horns in *Curvus Virginianus*. Senotes of Yucatan.

Vol. II. On *Pica melanoleuca*, Magpie. New Species of Humming-Bird. On the Anatomy of *Fuligula spectabilis*. On the European and American Widgeons. On *Tetrao cupido*. On *Pyranga roseogularis*. On *Sterna cantiaica*. On *Troglodytes albinucha*.

Vol. III. On the American and European Oyster-Catcher. On *Ibis guarauna*.

Vol. IV. Notes on the Internal Anatomy of a Female Mina Bird (*Gracula religiosa*).

Vol. V. Wild Hybrid Duck propagated between the *Clangula Americana* and the *Mergus cucullatus*.

Journal.

Vol. II. Observations on the Plumage of the Red and Mottled Owls.

Vol. IV. Observations on the Characters and Habits of the Ocellated Turkey (*Meleagris ocellata*). Description and Habits of Birds of Yucatan.

Vol. V. Further Accounts of Birds of Yucatan. Description of *Pyrranga roseo-gularis*. The Dodo a Rasorial and not a Rapacious Bird.

WILLIAM SMITH CLARK, M. A., PH. D., LL. D.

WILLIAM SMITH CLARK, M. A., Ph. D., LL. D., son of Dr. Ather-ton and Harriet (Smith) Clark, was born, July 31, 1826, at Ashfield, Mass., and received his early education there and at Williston Seminary, Easthampton. Graduating from Amherst College in 1848, he returned to Williston Seminary, where he taught the natural sciences from 1848 to 1850. He then went abroad, and for the next two years devoted himself to the study of chemistry and botany at Göttingen, Germany, receiving from that University the degree of Ph. D., in 1852.

On his return to this country, he was elected to the Chair of Chemistry, Botany, and Zoölogy in Amherst College, performing the duties of that position from 1852 to 1858, and of the Chair of Chemistry alone from 1858 to 1867, when he resigned to accept the Presidency of the Massachusetts Agricultural College. This, and the Professorship of Botany and Horticulture, he held from 1867 to 1879. He then became interested in the project of a "floating college," and being made President, bent all his energies, during the years 1879 and 1880, to developing this scheme of uniting scientific study with a trip round the world. It was abandoned, however, on the sudden death of its originator, Mr. Woodruff. He subsequently engaged in mining operations; and the last few years of his life were spent quietly at his home in Amherst, vainly battling with the disease which had already sapped the foundations of his life. He died at his home, on March 9, 1886, from an affection of the heart.

At the breaking out of the war, in 1861, he hastened from the lecture-room to offer his services in the field, and received a commission as Major in the 21st Massachusetts Volunteers, in August, 1861.